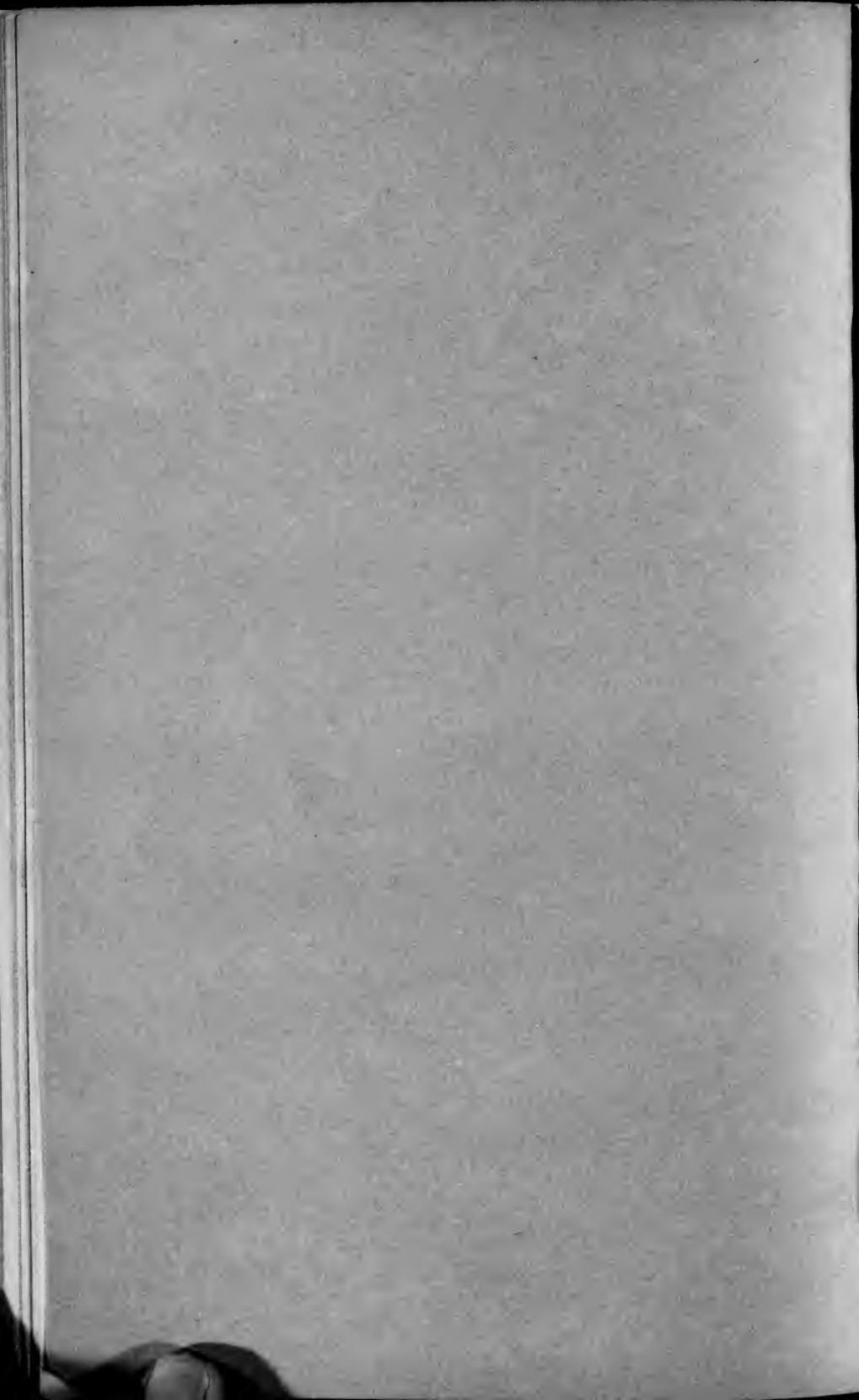


**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF WEIGHTS  
MEASURES, AND MARKETS  
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1929**

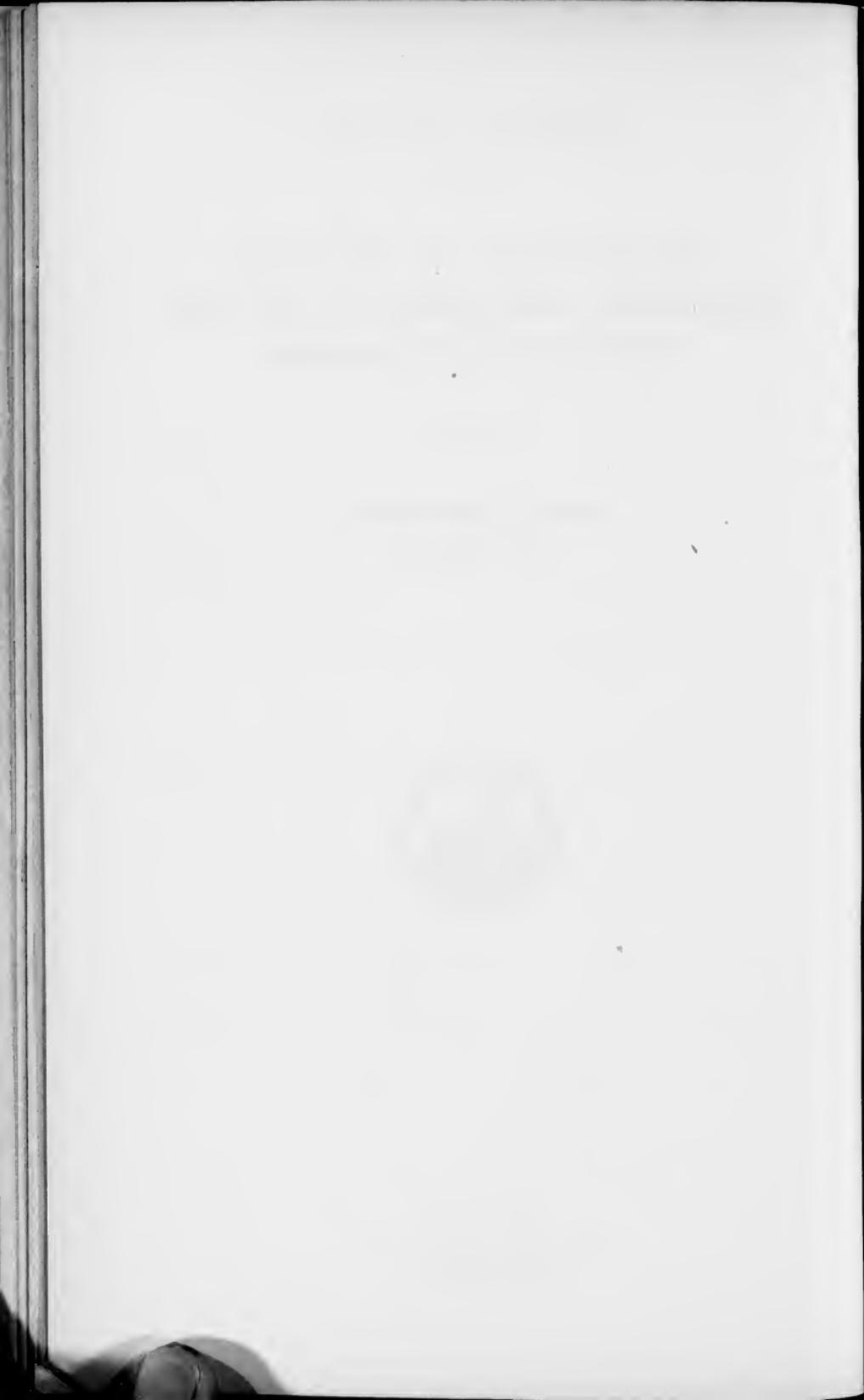


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**UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1929**



## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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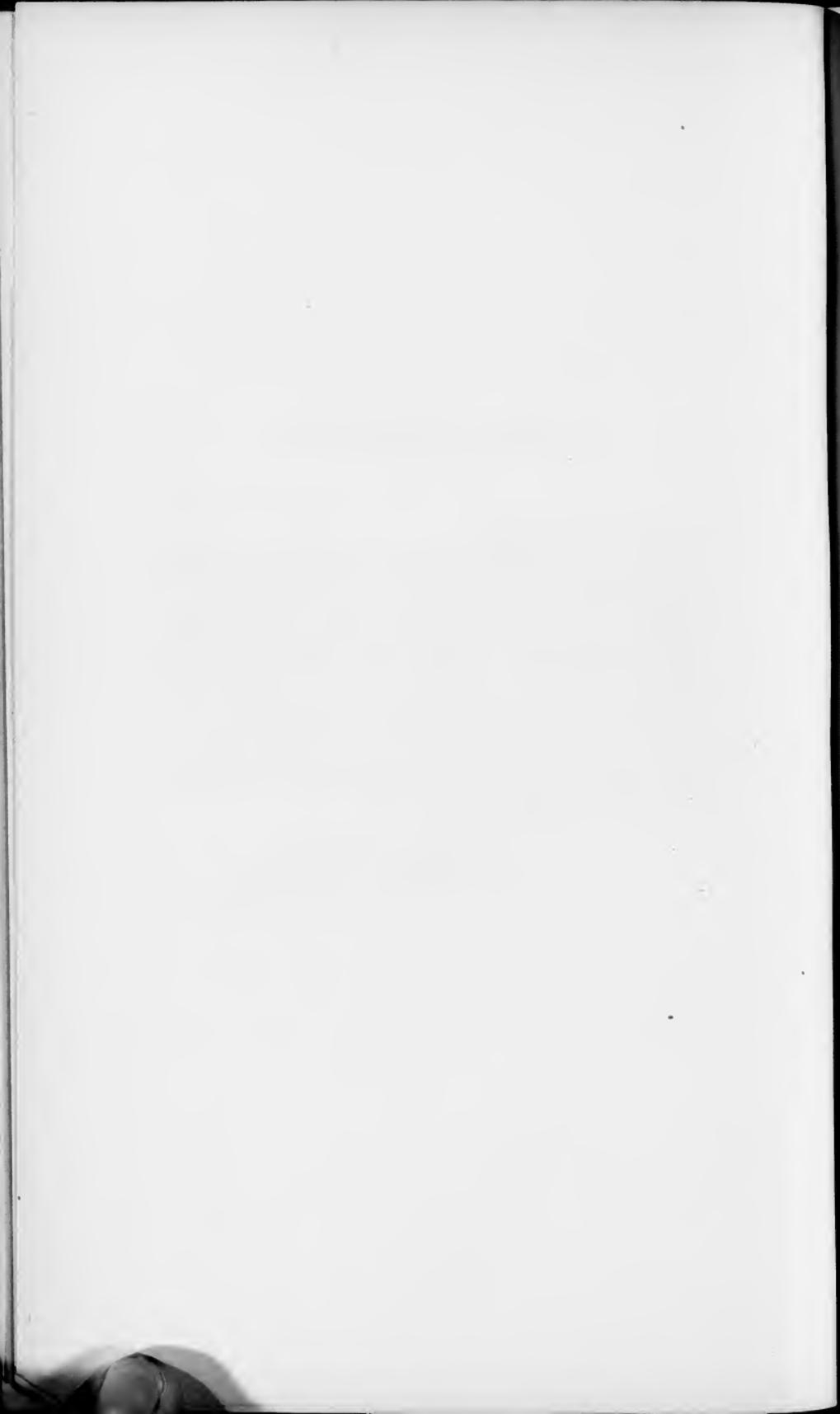
AUGUST 31, 1929.

TO THE COMMISSIONERS:

There is respectfully submitted the following report regarding the duties performed by the Department of Weights, Measures, and Markets of the District of Columbia during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1929.

In this connection I desire to give expression to my appreciation to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, officials of the Bureau of the Budget, and the members of the Appropriation Committees of Congress for their uniform courtesy and consideration in connection with my efforts to maintain this department of the District government in such manner as to render the greatest possible public service.

GEO. M. ROBERTS,  
*Superintendent, Weights,  
Measures, and Markets,  
District of Columbia.*



## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

### DEPARTMENT OF WEIGHTS, MEASURES, AND MARKETS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1929

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The Department of Weights, Measures, and Markets is engaged in two distinct municipal activities: Administration of the weights and measures law, and supervision of all markets owned by the District government.

The duties of the department are set forth at length in the weights and measures act of 1921.

The two branches of the service will be discussed separately.

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

During the fiscal year covered by this report the weights and measures work of the department has shown a substantial increase in numerous respects over that of the preceding fiscal year. As a matter of fact, the work for many years has regularly shown an increase annually. This is due in part to increase in business activities, installation of modern equipment by business establishments, changes in equipment used for commercial purposes, changes of ownership in commercial establishments, and the large increase in demands made by the general public by reason of its constantly increasing acquaintance with the duties, functions, and activities of the department.

Greater stress than ever before has during the past year been placed upon supervisory, educational, and regulatory work. Such work is constructive in character and tends to prevent violations of law. Special and detailed instructions were given to proprietors of 512 business establishments.

Under the statute creating and prescribing its duties the department is charged with supervision in certain respects over transactions in practically every business establishment in the District. Among others, they include the following general classes of business: Bakeries, dairies and dealers in dairy products, groceries and similar foods, delicatessen and confectionery stores, wholesale and retail drugs, dry goods, fish and sea foods, flour and feed, fruits and vegetables, coal and other fuel, ice, meats, poultry, restaurants, hotels, hardware, electrical supplies, coffees and teas, building material, auto supplies, house furnishings, leather goods, paper and stationery, junk and waste material, cold-storage plants, transportation companies, gasoline and oils, packing houses, schools, hospitals, and many miscellaneous establishments. Inspections were also made for depart-

ments of the District government and for a large number of departments of the Federal Government. Weighing and measuring instruments used by peddlers, hucksters, and other transient vendors of every character were also examined and tested in accordance with law.

The popular conception among persons having little information to the effect that the duties of the Weights and Measures Department are confined largely to testing scales, etc., is manifestly erroneous. That comprises more or less routine duties, and, while important, does not by any means represent the most valuable service which the department renders to the public as does supervisory, educational, investigational, and enforcement activities.

During the year inspectors made 12,735 official visits to business establishments under legal supervision, an increase of 1,520 over the preceding year. A large amount of attention was, as usual, given to special or surprise inspections at various times throughout the year. There were made 2,620 such inspections, an increase of 246 over the preceding year.

The total number of examinations of equipment, including commercial scales, weights, capacity measures, mechanical measuring and calculating machines, gasoline and oil dispensing units, prescription scales and weights, jewelry scales and weights, linear measures, milk bottles, and other instruments was 1,556,721. Of this number 1,538,216 were found correct and approved, 1,935 were adjusted before being approved, and 18,505 were condemned. In cases where instruments could be repaired owners were given permission to have that done, and they were thereafter reinspected. Those not susceptible of being repaired were confiscated and destroyed in accordance with law.

The number of instruments tested in the office was 1,563. The work of making office tests engages a large part of the time of one inspector. The instruments in question are those brought to the office by persons having no established place of business and certain other instruments requiring a more delicate test than can properly be made in the field.

The number of tests made of automatic gasoline and oil measuring pumps was 6,139, of which 5,317 were found correct and approved and 822 were condemned. The number of such tests made shows an increase of 246 over the previous year.

All weighing and measuring instruments subject to inspection and test under the law are examined before being placed in use for the purpose of determining whether they are accurate, whether they comply with legal requirements as to construction, and are suitable for the purpose for which they are intended to be used. The work of making examination of new types of instruments for the purpose indicated is performed largely by the chief inspector, in addition to his other duties.

After being placed in use instruments are, as nearly as possible with the limited force, examined semiannually, as required by law. This work is systematically laid out. Records are kept of all instruments inspected showing the type, address of the owner, date of inspection, and the action taken. Records are also kept of package goods reweighed, showing whether they contained the quantity rep-

resented. A card index of all establishments using weighing and measuring instruments and the inspection records of each are serially numbered and filed for ready reference.

#### SUMMARY OF EXAMINATION AND TESTS

The following statement indicates in condensed form the number of examinations and tests made of weighing and measuring equipment:

	Total number examined	Number found cor- rect and approved	Num- ber ap- proved after adjust- ment	Num- ber con- demned
Spring scales-----	7, 550	6, 948	641	602
Computing scales-----	5, 231	4, 642	637	589
Counter scales-----	3, 884	3, 822	126	62
Counter platform scales-----	578	551	21	27
Platform scales-----	2, 391	2, 256	235	135
Dormant scales-----	277	229	34	48
Abattoir and beam scales-----	763	724	60	39
Wagon and truck scales-----	403	270	28	133
Prescription and jewelry scales and weights-----	8, 050	7, 945	38	105
Automatic measuring pumps-----	6, 139	5, 317	1	822
Capacity measures-----	52, 506	51, 308	-----	1, 198
Milk bottles-----	1, 439, 905	1, 425, 547	-----	14, 358
Avoirdupois weights-----	26, 223	26, 127	47	96
Linear measures-----	1, 746	1, 687	-----	59
Personal weighing scales-----	952	734	66	218
Mechanical linear measures-----	102	94	1	8
Miscellaneous scales-----	21	15	-----	6
Total-----	1, 556, 721	1, 538, 216	1, 935	18, 505

#### INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS

Every complaint received was made the basis of a careful investigation and such action was taken as the facts in each case warranted.

In addition to investigations made as the result of complaints, inspectors, while engaged in their regular inspection duties, are required to be on the alert for the discovery of law violations and to make reports to the superintendent regarding same. Inspectors also have police authority granted them by an act of Congress and make summary arrests when necessary.

Special investigations are conducted in many instances where no complaint has been received but where there is cause to believe irregularities exist. There were made 885 special investigations during the past year, some of them consuming much time, requiring work of intricate character and the preparation of comprehensive reports. There were submitted by inspectors 159 reports in writing covering investigations made by them.

Extensive surveys affecting certain lines of trade, such as bread, gasoline, coal, etc., are also made when possible. Such surveys are

considered necessary in order to keep in touch with the situation regarding law observance.

Shoppers and buyers are sent out in various sections of the city to purchase commodities from merchants, and the quantity received in each instance is carefully verified in the office. This method of investigation is used for the purpose of determining precisely whether merchants are dealing fairly with the general public. A very large variety of business establishments, including department stores, all sorts of food-vending places, gasoline stations, and others are thoroughly "shopped" out in the manner indicated without knowledge on the part of the proprietors or employees. If no law violation is found, the fact that an establishment has been investigated is not disclosed to the owners. Slight irregularities can sometimes be corrected by positive warning and constructive advice, but wherever considered necessary, and the evidence, after thorough review, is considered sufficient, prosecutions are instituted and vigorously pushed in the courts. The office of the corporation counsel cooperated magnificently in conducting prosecutions.

It was necessary during the fiscal year to institute prosecutions in 113 cases, an increase of 7 over the year before, none of which resulted in acquittal.

Punishment inflicted is usually not extremely severe, but is generally sufficient to correct the abuse. In the cases in question fines or forfeitures totaled \$1,991.

The classes of business engaged in by those prosecuted covered quite a large scope and included numerous offenses, such as sale of short-weight poultry, ice, vegetables, coal, sugar, bread, exposing short-weight packages for sale, failure to mark quantity of contents on food packages, failure to weigh ice at time of delivery, operation of vehicles for delivery of coal without name and address of owner, inaccurate gasoline pumps, and other miscellaneous violations of law.

#### PACKAGE FOODS

The large amount of attention given to weights of food in package form has been continued this year. Inspectors have received special direction to give this branch of the work close attention. During the year 9,928 packages being offered or exposed for sale were reweighed, an increase of 1,901 over the previous year. The former practice of reducing the weight of package commodities slightly below the weight represented has, by reason of the activities of the department in this respect, been very largely eliminated and consumers are now receiving, in most instances, the full quantity for which they pay. Merchants are required to have the quantity of contents plainly and conspicuously stated on all packages containing foods for sale. Purchasers should give attention to this requirement, and are requested to communicate with this department whenever an instance of noncompliance is discovered.

#### ICE

The law provides that ice shall be weighed at the time of delivery, With hundreds of ice wagons in operation daily during warm weather it is a practical impossibility to rigidly enforce this provision in

every instance, but the department has been vigilant in pursuit of offenders, and the general situation appears to be reasonably good. Venders have come to understand that detection of violations of the law relating to sale of ice means certain prosecution.

#### BREAD

Investigation of bakeries operating in the District of Columbia has been made from time to time by weighing large quantities of bread in the bakeries before delivery and by weighing loaves found on sale in retail stores. No very large shortages in bread weights were found, but the product of a few bakeries indicated a tendency on the part of the management to make loaves as light as possible without transgressing the law sufficiently to subject themselves to prosecution. In all the instances mentioned it was possible, temporarily at least, to correct the matter without court action, except one, where, after warning, the situation was not corrected and prosecution was considered necessary.

The District of Columbia is fortunate in having probably the best bread law in the country. It is fair and beneficial to bakers by preventing unfair competition in weights, and at the same time is designed to effectively protect the public against fraud in this necessary and important food commodity. It is expected that more attention can be given over to supervision of the baking business during the coming year than has heretofore been possible by assigning one inspector to that work a large portion of his time.

#### GASOLINE

It has been possible to direct more attention to supervision of automatic dispensing pumps used in making sales of gasoline and oils than in previous years by reason of an increase of one in the inspection force. Two inspectors are now regularly assigned to that work, whereas only one was assigned before. All new instruments are, of course, inspected before being placed in use, and during the past year the semiannual inspections required by law have been made practically on time. The number of new pumps installed has been very great and inspection of them has consumed much time and work.

Supervision of sales of gasoline and the pumps used in making such sales is considered one of the most important branches of the department's duties. In addition to making inspections and tests of pumps the department makes frequent test purchases of gasoline for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the public is being defrauded. For that purpose especially equipped automobiles are employed wherein the regular gasoline tanks are not connected with the engines, supplemental tanks being installed for supplying fuel for operation of the machines. By that means the department's buyers are able to measure all the gasoline they receive and definitely determine whether they have obtained full measure as represented by the seller. There were made during the year, 178 test purchases of gasoline from 163 establishments. Where small shortages were received, correction of the situation by warning and instruction was

undertaken, but substantial shortages resulted in prosecution of the offenders. It is not sufficient to simply test the pumps in order to safeguard the public. For that reason almost continuous investigation of gasoline filling stations is carried on. The importance of this work may be illustrated by the statement that approximately 50,000,000 gallons of gasoline for use in motor vehicles is sold in the District of Columbia annually. Most of it is retailed in quantities of 5 gallons or a multiple of 5 gallons. An average shortage of only a quart on each 5-gallon sale would result in an annual loss to consumers of more than \$400,000.

A comprehensive nation-wide survey covering sales of gasoline to motorists was made last year by the American Automobile Association. Following the survey, the association furnished a report to the press in which the District of Columbia was named as being one of the very limited number of jurisdictions where the public was adequately protected against sales of short measure.

#### COAL

The weights and measures law contains comprehensive and detailed provisions regulating the weighing, delivery, and sale of coal in the District of Columbia. The provisions in question were the subject of most serious and careful consideration by Congress during the time the bill which became the present weights and measures law was pending before that body. By reason of its importance, the law relating to coal was so framed that, if carried out, the public would be effectively protected against mistakes or intentional fraud.

The intention of the law is: First, to protect the purchasing public; second, to protect honest dealers from unfair competition by dishonest dealers who may, by making short-weight deliveries, reduce the price below that at which an honest competitor can afford to sell, or by the same process make unreasonable profits. In order that the law may be carried out, it imposes upon this department the duty of testing all scales at fixed intervals and certifying to their correctness or condemning them and prohibiting their use until corrected. It also imposes the further duty of having inspectors stop loads of coal in transit for delivery, examine the delivery tickets, reweigh the coal for the purpose of ascertaining whether the weight is correct, and causing prosecution of those found making short-weight deliveries.

Notwithstanding the provisions of law in question and the duties imposed thereunder, the department does not have equipment necessary to make proper and effective tests of large scales used for weighing coal and other valuable commodities weighed by the truck load. For that reason the law, so far as it relates to coal, is in a large measure inoperative.

An estimate considered reliable, places the quantity of coal sold annually to private consumers in the District of Columbia, exclusive of that sold to public utilities and other large consumers of similar character, at more than 1,000,000 tons. It is believed that the cost may be conservatively estimated at \$10,000,000. On that basis, a shortage of only 5 per cent in weights would amount to \$500,000 annual loss to consumers. And, on the other hand, overweight would

entail proportionate loss to dealers whose scales might become defective by use in such manner as to register overweight.

The extensive use of scales of large capacity for weighing heavy loads, some of them having capacity of 20 tons or more, and commonly used to a capacity of more than 10 tons, including weight of the truck, requires testing equipment far beyond that used many years ago when the average weight of loads rarely ever exceeded 1 or 2 tons.

A large truck, especially built and equipped for hauling, loading, and unloading official test weights is necessary for the proper performance of the work imposed upon the department and for carrying out the law which has been enacted for the public benefit. The kind of truck necessary can be purchased for approximately \$6,000, would last many years, and would probably save to the people of the District many times its cost each year.

#### METERS FOR MEASURING SERVICE

The law does not authorize this department to exercise any supervision over taxicab meters, gas meters, or electric meters employed by public utility corporations for the purpose of measuring service to the public. The importance of close supervision over installation, construction, and operation of such meters is generally conceded, and it appears logical that the duty of such supervision should be imposed upon the Weights and Measures Department along with its supervision over weighing and measuring instruments employed by other persons and business organizations. In order for this department to maintain any effective supervision, it would be necessary to secure an amendment to the law so as to provide for reposing in the department the same authority with respect to service meters as is now reposed with respect to other weighing and measuring instruments. No useful purpose would be served by merely testing such meters as might be voluntarily submitted for that purpose, because persons or organizations operating inaccurate instruments or instruments installed in such a manner as to permit manipulation would not be inclined to submit them to test. Effective supervision can be maintained only through authority to approve or disapprove types, regulate installation, prohibit use of faulty instruments by condemnation, and punish those violating the law in the respects indicated.

#### NEED FOR FICTITIOUS-NAME LAW

There is serious need in the District of Columbia for a statute regulating the use of fictitious or trade names in connection with the operation of mercantile and other business establishments similar to statutes in operation in many of the States. Business establishments of various kinds, inviting public patronage, are being conducted in practically every section of the city under names giving no indication as to identity of the owners. Some of them are owned by corporations or individuals domiciled outside of the District of Columbia. When such establishments violate the law or engage in questionable practices it is often extremely difficult to ascertain the responsible ownership.

#### OVERTIME WORK

It has been necessary in order to perform the work accomplished during the past year to deprive employees of their full quota of vacation leave authorized by law and for some of them to perform considerable overtime work. During the last calendar year the 29 employees in the department were granted a total of 533 days annual vacation leave, an average of 18.3 days each. The total sick leave for the entire force was 342 days, an average of 11.8 days each.

#### NEED FOR EDUCATED AND TRAINED INSPECTORS

The personnel of the department have done faithful and loyal service under serious handicaps in certain respects. A large proportion of the salaries are insufficient to support their families in reasonable comfort. Some of them have performed outside work out of official working hours in order to make ends meet; the wives of others have secured employment to help support the family. It is needless to say that such a situation does not promote efficiency. The person who performs his work best must not be mentally harassed and should not have cause to feel that his pay is not commensurate with the duties he performs.

There is existing in some quarters the opinion that little or no education or training is necessary for the performance of the work of a weights and measures inspector. Such an opinion is erroneous. It should be remembered that in their contact with business men and business establishments weights and measures inspectors are the representatives of the District government, clothed with unusual authority, and engaged in the performance of duties which require tact, diplomacy, skill, and the ability to command respect. It is also necessary in the proper performance of their duties to make important investigations often involving intricate business machinery and practices and to submit evidence covering such investigations in an intelligent, comprehensive, and detailed manner for presentation in court or otherwise correcting illegal practices. It is not difficult to secure evidence in small cases involving only the practices employed by ignorant persons, but to discover and obtain proof of violations perpetrated by means of intricate business mechanics set up by trained experts who endeavor to get around the law requires education, training, and experience which can not be obtained for a meager salary.

#### DISTRICT MARKETS

The District of Columbia operates the following markets:

1. Western Market, Twenty-first and K Streets NW.
2. Eastern Market, Seventh and C Streets SE.
3. Fish Wharf and Market, Eleventh and Water Streets SW.
4. Farmers' Produce Market, south side of B Street west of Sixth Street NW.

Western and Eastern Markets are inclosed markets, each having inside stands rented to dealers in various commodities, and farmers' curb lines where small truck growers sell at retail direct to consumers. The buildings have been in a state of more or less disintegration, and the interior equipment does not conform to modern market requirements. They were built about 50 years ago, funds

for improvements have been meager, and, for that reason, the establishments in question do not measure up to the standard which should be maintained in municipally owned and operated markets.

Last year, however, when the necessity of closing Western Market by reason of its dilapidated condition became imminent, an appropriation of \$35,000 for its improvement was made. The funds have been used for installing a cold-storage room for meats, new stands for meat dealers, new lighting system, new roof, and other repairs. The funds appropriated were far from sufficient to bring the market up to proper standard. Additional new stands, new plumbing, new doors, new window frames, new paving in front of building, and other substantial improvements are imperative if the operation of this market is to continue without its being a reproach to the District government.

The Eastern Market, if its operation is continued, should also be remodeled. Cold storage should be provided, and sanitary stands which meet modern requirements should be installed.

Shelters for farmers should be provided at both Eastern and Western Markets. No shelter whatever is provided for them at present. It is considered inhumane to subject these people, many of whom are women, to the heat, rain, snow, and other miserable conditions incident to exposure to the elements in order to be able to sell produce which they bring from their farms to market. Furthermore, Washington consumers, who desire to buy fresh produce directly from the farmers, should not be forced to undergo the hardships incident to buying under conditions under which the farmers' lines at Eastern and Western Markets are now conducted.

Much more produce is sold by farmers at the two markets named than may be believed by uninformed persons. Based upon information considered reliable, it is believed that sales by farmers directly to consumers at Eastern and Western Markets amounts to approximately \$100,000 annually at each market. Approximately 100 farmers sell produce during the year at each market. Some of them attend the market on certain days practically every week in the year. Others come only during the spring, summer, and fall. During the fiscal year covered by this report farmers made 4,996 trips to Western Market and 5,558 trips to Eastern Market in order to sell produce. Some of them dispose of practically the entire output of their farms, amounting to several thousand dollars annually, at these markets, and have established trade with a large number of consumers. Notwithstanding operating expenses at both Eastern and Western Markets, including salaries of employees and cost of repairs, have appreciably increased during the past several years, the low rents for stands fixed more than 20 years ago are still in force. The total revenue for the year at Western Market was \$5,970.60; at Eastern Market the total revenue for the year was \$5,573. The total expense at Western Market, including salaries, lighting, supplies, and repairs, exclusive of major repairs for which the special appropriation of \$35,000 was made, was \$5,998.59. The total expense at Eastern Market, including the same items, was \$6,043.29.

The rental rates at both markets are too low. They should be moderately increased.

The Fish Market and wharves in connection therewith is devoted largely to wholesale and retail sales of sea foods. Considerable quan-

ity of watermelons and potatoes, in season, as well as other miscellaneous commodities are unloaded at the wharves. It was necessary to make many repairs to the Fish Market building and equipment during the year in order to keep the plant in good condition. The expense for repairs was \$2,701.75. The total operating cost, including salaries of employees, repairs, lights, and supplies, was \$8,155.43. The total revenue was \$17,297.40, an increase of \$1,155.26 over the preceding year, leaving a net profit of \$9,141.97.

The Farmers' Produce Market, in operation under the provisions of an act of Congress since May 20, 1870, surrounded by B, Little B, Tenth and Twelfth Streets NW., was torn down during the winter of 1928. The hundreds of farmers who formerly sold produce at the market provided for them by law have since been permitted to sell produce on the sidewalk and curb on the south side of B Street west of Sixth Street NW.

A tremendous amount of business was transacted at the Farmers' Produce Market prior to the time it was torn down, through the sale of fresh fruits, vegetables, poultry, eggs, and other products from the vast farming and truck-growing area surrounding the District. The value of the market to consumers in Washington and to farmers in surrounding territory was enormous. It afforded the farmers a ready means of disposing of their products directly to the consumers, retail merchants, and other buyers without the same passing through the hands of unnecessary middlemen. Thus, while consumers received produce at prices much below prices which would have otherwise prevailed, the farmers were able by means of direct selling to obtain much more money for themselves than they could have obtained had they been compelled to sell through additional middlemen.

The popularity of the Farmers' Produce Market before its demolition is attested by the increase in the number of spaces occupied during the preceding 13 years and a corresponding increase of the amount of produce sold thereon. A nominal charge to each farmer of 20 cents per day was made for stands wide enough for a vehicle and for display of his goods. Notwithstanding the small charge for space, contrary to statements made by some persons antagonistic to a farmers' market, the market has shown a considerable net profit over operating expenses every year, in addition to the vast saving effected in food costs to the people of Washington. The total receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1928, during which period the market was torn down, was \$12,250.25, and it showed a net profit above all expenses of \$5,363.30. The number of stands occupied during each of the 13 years prior to being torn down was as follows:

1916	39,474
1917	53,803
1918	39,299
1919	47,910
1920	45,441
1921	51,035
1922	48,178
1923	55,675
1924	57,245
1925	58,734
1926	58,318
1927	60,923
1928	59,150

During the last calendar year preceding the demolition of the market, according to a survey made, more than 1,000 farmers sold produce there and the total sales amounted to more than \$3,000,000. Of this amount the survey indicates that \$856,722, or approximately 28 per cent of the total, was sold directly to the individual family trade. The actual saving to consumers effected by the market is, of course, difficult to calculate because of the many elements entering into it, but it appears to have been more than \$250,000 per year. Since the demolition of the market, notwithstanding the best possible has been done in the circumstances, the conditions under which farmers have sold their produce at the improvised location on the south side of B Street have been extremely deplorable.

In order to conduct their marketing operations at all farmers have endured much suffering by reason of exposure to cold in winter, heat in summer, and rain and storms at various times throughout the year. They have also suffered serious financial loss through damage to the produce which they had toiled to raise and bring to market. Many farmers have abandoned any effort to sell their produce at the market under existing conditions.

During the past fiscal year the number of spaces occupied was only 42,231, as against 59,150 during the preceding year, a reduction of 17,919. The total amount of revenue for the past year was \$8,518 as against a total or \$12,250.25 for the preceding year. The net profit last year was \$2,506.30, whereas during the preceding year, when conditions were different, the net profit was \$8,518.

Much difficulty has been encountered in operation of the present improvised Farmers' Market. It has extended over a great distance along the street, and with only one employee available for duty at a time even during the rush hours when hundreds are buying and selling and serious traffic congestion, it has not been possible to adequately enforce rules, but the greatest possible effort has been made in that direction.

A large part of the business at the Farmers' Produce Market is transacted very early in the morning, beginning about 4 o'clock when retail merchants and hucksters go there to buy their supplies for the day. Many consumers also do their buying early, but the greater portion of consumers, buying is done after 7 o'clock in the morning. By reason of the early hours during which the greater portion of the buying and selling is done, persons who do not come in contact with it often have no comprehension of the amount and nature of the business transacted there.

A well-planned, conveniently situated, and well-conducted farmers' market is an asset of tremendous value to any city. A municipal enterprise which pays a profit into the treasury and saves the consumers not less than a quarter million dollars annually, besides affording residents of surrounding country a means of selling to best advantage products from their farms to the value of more than \$3,000,000 per year, most of which is spent with local business establishments, is worthy of sympathetic consideration as a cold-blooded business proposition. A market of this kind, however, should be planned with much care and its operation should be in immediate

charge of a capable and experienced administrative official. The impression quite generally prevailing among the uninformed that only a sort of "watchman" is needed in immediate charge of a large farmers' market is clearly erroneous.

It is more desirable for a municipality to maintain no markets rather than maintain markets of an inferior type. The latter serve no useful purpose and reflect only discredit upon the city in which they are situated.

